

Issue NE-CW2903, released July 21, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending July 20, 2003, record high temperatures in parts of the state and virtually no rainfall accelerated wheat harvest and continued to stress dryland crops and pastures, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Irrigation systems were in full use. Other producer activities included harvesting alfalfa and oats for grain. Grasshoppers and other pests continue to be a source of producer concern.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged above normals for the week and ranged from 1 to 7 degrees above normals. Precipitation was very light and scattered across the state.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending July 20, 2003

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Topsoil				
Very Short	19	6	67	24
Short	42	31	23	29
Adequate	39	62	10	46
Surplus	0	1	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	17	11	65	26
Short	45	38	25	25
Adequate	38	51	10	48
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	6.9	6.1	7.0	6.2

Field Crops Report: Corn condition declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 7 poor, 21 fair, 49 good, and 22 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated corn rated 83 percent good and excellent while dryland corn declined to 54. Fields were 41 percent silked, behind last year at 58 percent and average at 56.

Soybean condition declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 30 fair, 52 good, and 11 excellent, above last year and average. Forty-nine percent of the fields were blooming, behind last year at 69 and average at 62. Fields were setting pods on 3 percent of the acreage, behind 15 last year and 13 average.

Oat condition declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 20 fair, 57 good, and 19 excellent, well above last year and average. Harvest for grain progressed to 47 percent combined, behind 76 last year and 54 average.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 2 percent very poor, 10 poor, 41 fair, 43 good, and 4 excellent, above last year and average. Three percent of the acreage was headed, behind last year at 10 and average at 8.

Ninety-four percent of the wheat acreage was ripe, behind last year at 97 but the same as average. Harvest made excellent progress with 84 percent of the acreage combined, only a few days behind last year at 91 but exceeded average at 81.

Dry bean condition declined and rated 3 percent very poor, 8 poor, 28 fair, 52 good, and 9 excellent. Thirty-seven percent of the fields were blooming, ahead of last year at 28 and average at 36. Five percent had set pods, near last year at 6 and average at 7.

Alfalfa condition declined and rated 2 percent very poor, 11 poor, 27 fair, 45 good, and 15 excellent, above last year and average. Second cutting activities progressed to 79 percent harvested, behind last year at 86 but same as average. Wild hay condition declined and rated 3 percent very poor, 9 poor, 28 fair, 49 good, and 11 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending July 20, 2003

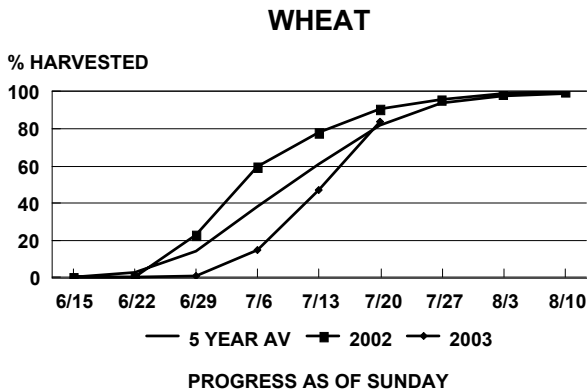
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Corn Silked	41	12	58	56
Soybeans Blooming	49	15	69	62
Soybeans Setting Pods	3	0	15	13
Oats Harvested	47	23	76	54
Sorghum Headed	3	1	10	8
Wheat Ripe	94	79	97	94
Wheat Harvested	84	47	91	81
Alfalfa 2 nd Cutting	79	59	86	79

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending July 20, 2003

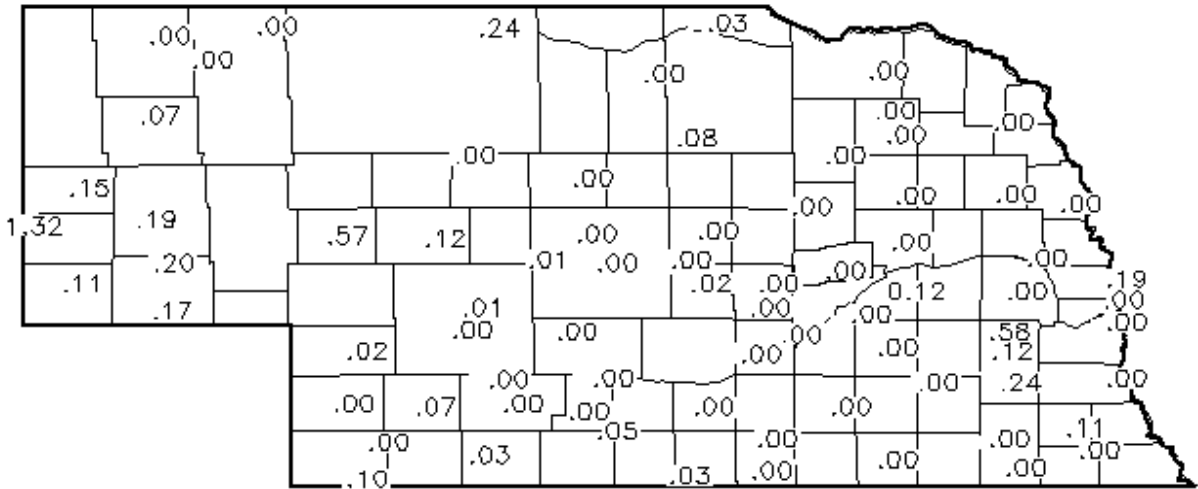
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	1	7	21	49	22
Soybean	1	6	30	52	11
Oat	1	3	20	57	19
Sorghum	2	10	41	43	4
Dry Bean	3	8	28	52	9
Alfalfa	2	11	27	45	15
Wild Hay	3	9	28	49	11

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition declined and rated 7 percent very poor, 17 poor, 33 fair, 38 good, and 5 excellent. Hot dry conditions stressed livestock and slowed weight gains.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending July 20, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - July 20, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.30	.04	.00	.00	.07	.03	.01	.01
Total since April 1	8.06	11.98	13.54	13.26	12.95	11.54	12.43	14.53
Normal since April 1	9.30	11.05	12.73	12.02	13.21	10.72	11.73	13.44
Total as % of normal	86%	108%	106%	110%	98%	107%	106%	108%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, July 20, 2003

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	106	57	79	+6	165	1199	1324
	Scottsbluff	104	57	80	+6	170	1382	1323
	Sidney	105	60	81	+7	174	1266	1356
NC	Ainsworth	96	57	78	+3	177	1333	1461
	Arthur	106	56	79	+4	173	1257	1427
	O'Neill	100	57	79	+3	179	1325	1532
NE	Concord	96	62	77	+1	179	1366	1572
	Elgin	99	63	79	+3	183	1377	1573
	West Point	96	62	79	+1	182	1445	1665
C	Grand Island	100	61	80	+4	187	1470	1594
	Lexington	105	62	84	+7	204	1524	1565
	Ord	101	61	80	+4	187	1406	1580
EC	Lincoln	101	65	83	+4	199	1597	1750
	Central City	99	60	79	+3	184	1490	1620
	Mead	99	58	79	+1	182	1510	1725
SW	Champion	107	57	81	+6	170	1405	1465
	North Platte	106	55	81	+6	181	1419	1481
	Curtis	107	59	81	+5	184	1514	1507
SC	Arapahoe	106	53	78	+3	158	1244	1421
	Minden	103	66	82	+6	192	1515	1571
	Red Cloud	105	64	84	+7	193	1544	1613
SE	Beatrice	100	61	83	+4	192	1579	1750
	Clay Center	100	62	80	+4	185	1474	1609
	Nemaha	97	68	82	+3	202	1682	1777

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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